

SPIRITUAL HEALERS

The horde of crusading ministers of the gospel, and other necromancers who live by traveling over the country proposing to cure disease by prayer, laying on of hands, and what not, are encountering some rocky places on their road to prosperity. They are being investigated and the findings are being published.

One of the latest is the rather notorious Rev. C. S. Price "healer." Recently, in Vancouver, he stirred up things so much that the general ministerial association appointed a committee of eleven ministers representing all churches, eight doctors of medicine and a few other scientific men to look into Price's methods and results. This perfectly fair committee asked Price for his co-operation in an attempt to arrive at the facts, and, of course, were refused. Nevertheless, the committee was able to get track of a considerable number of his patients and follow them. Their findings are expressed in these figures: "No organic lesion or defect had been helped, and the only successes had been in cases of functional disturbances. Five cases of typically functional disorders were cured; specific or general improvement, due to improved mental or spiritual outlook of the patient, was found in 38 cases; no change since anointment was recorded in 212 cases, while 17, mainly through neglect of proper scientific treatment, had become worse; 10 seemed to have a better mental outlook; 30 had developed marked depression; 39 had died; and 5 that were anointed and 4 members of families of anointed persons had become insane."

California has had and now has more than her share of these healers who contribute to poor health, insanity, and death among our citizens.

SHALL A PARDONED MEDICAL CRIMINAL HAVE HIS LICENSE RESTORED?

According to the Los Angeles Herald of February 20 "The State Board of Medical Examiners has under consideration today the application of William S. Card, former Oakland physician, for license to practice medicine in the State of California. Card's license was revoked seven years ago, when he was convicted of a criminal operation and sent to the State penitentiary on a charge of second degree murder. He was pardoned by Governor Stephens after serving a sentence of four and one-half years, on condition that he leave the State, which order was rescinded by Governor Richardson in January of last year, when he was granted a full pardon."

We do not know the reasons which actuated Governor Stephens in granting this man's conditional pardon. Nor are we accurately advised as to why, when the conditions were not fulfilled, Governor Richardson converted the conditional pardon into a full pardon instead of returning the man to prison for not living up to the conditions.

However these things may be and whatever the governing motives and influences, it is to be hoped, in the interest of decent medical protection for our citizens, that they won't be effective with the Board of Medical Examiners.

PUBLIC MEETINGS OF MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS

It ought to be interesting to physicians engaged in public promotion of health meetings to know of the many kinds of meetings now being tried.

The Ontario Medical Association has what is called "The Lay Conference of the Ontario Medical Association." This public organization is promoted and fostered by the committee of the Ontario Medical Association on the "Inter-Relations of the Public and the Medical Profession." The conference has held three annual meetings. The first two meetings were held at the same time as that of the Ontario Medical Association, but the last one was held by itself and independent of the meeting of the Ontario Medical Association. With a program committee made up of both medical and lay persons which provided attractive addresses by prominent speakers, they were able to secure and hold the attention of large audiences. The good and bad features of this movement ought to be studied by other medical organizations. Persons interested in this work will find a full discussion on page 262 of the March issue of The Canadian Medical Association Journal.

ANNUAL SESSION OF UTAH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Preliminary program of the Annual Session of the Utah Medical Association is published elsewhere in this number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. It is a particularly attractive program with important discussions opened by prominent members of our profession from different parts of the country. The movement by which medical meetings are becoming more and more really short courses of graduate instruction in the various principal topics of medicine is deserving of the highest commendation.

The sessions of the Utah meeting will be held at Logan, June 19, 20 and 21.

The relations between the California Medical Association and the Utah Medical Association are very close and the spirit of co-operation is splendid, this being fostered by the fact that CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE is the official publication of the Utah Medical Association.

It is our purpose, if copy is received in time, to publish the complete program in the June issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

What is Exhaustion—"An animal or man who has first been exhausted by exertion, emotion, hemorrhage, asphyxia, anesthesia of loss of sleep succumbs more readily to infection, and an animal or a man exhausted by infection succumbs more readily to trauma, emotion, anesthesia, exertion, loss of sleep," says G. W. Crile (Arch. Surg., March, 1924). "It becomes of value, therefore, to determine whether the exhaustion, which is one of the phenomena of either an acute or a chronic infection, is essentially different from exhaustion from other causes—emotion, exertion, physical trauma, insomnia." Crile, who has worked for many years on the problem, has just published an exhaustive, experimental study of this question, particularly as affected by blood poisoning, and concludes that exhaustion is an "end-result" of changes located primarily in the brain. The liver and the suprarenals are associated in some curious way in bringing about exhaustion.